

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patentees : John P. Drummond and Niall R. Lynam
Serial No. : 10/694,595
Filing Date : October 27, 2003
Patent No. : 6,970,073
Issue Date : November 29, 2005
Entitled : VEHICULAR REARVIEW MIRROR SYSTEM
WITH MICROCONTROLLER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION ON PRIOR REQUEST FOR
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

Dear Sir:

This is a request to have the Patent Office reconsider the refusal to correct the Abstract. Attached is a Certificate of Correction Form PTO/SB/44 to correct only the denied error, since the other errors noted in the prior request were entered.

The undersigned submits that the error in the printed patent 6,970,073 that is noted in the attached Form PTO/SB/44 is attributed to errors by the Patent Office. As shown in the Preliminary Amendment filed by Applicants on October 27, 2003 (attached as Exhibit A), the Abstract includes the amendments that are set forth in the attached request and that are omitted in the printed patent. Thus, and as stated in the attached Form PTO/SB/44, the following paragraph should be inserted as the Abstract of the patent:

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-- A vehicular rearview mirror system comprises an interior rearview mirror system that includes an interior reflective element that assumes an interior mirror electrochromic reflective element partial reflectance level in response to an interior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal. The vehicular rearview mirror system preferably includes a digital drive circuit, the drive circuit supplying a drive signal to the interior mirror electrochromic reflective element. The vehicular rearview mirror system includes a garage door opener; the garage door opener including a transmitter for transmitting garage door opening signals. The vehicular rearview mirror system further includes a tire pressure monitoring system, the tire pressure monitoring system including a receiver for receiving signals indicative of vehicle tire pressure. The vehicular rearview mirror system further includes a microcontroller; the microcontroller controls at least in part the drive circuit, the garage door opener and the tire pressure monitoring system.--

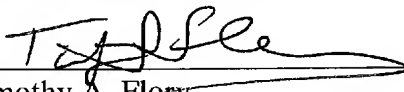
Entry and approval of the attached form PTO/SB/44 and issuance of a Certificate of Correction without delay is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

IAN A. MCCABE, ET AL.

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhardt, LLP

Date: February 25, 2011



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PATENT NO. : 6,970,073 B2

APPLICATION NO.: 10/694,595

ISSUE DATE : November 29, 2005

INVENTOR(S) : Drummond et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Replace the current Abstract with:

--A vehicular rearview mirror system comprises an interior rearview mirror system that includes an interior reflective element that assumes an interior mirror electrochromic reflective element partial reflectance level in response to an interior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal. The vehicular rearview mirror system preferably includes a digital drive circuit, the drive circuit supplying a drive signal to the interior mirror electrochromic reflective element. The vehicular rearview mirror system includes a garage door opener; the garage door opener including a transmitter for transmitting garage door opening signals. The vehicular rearview mirror system further includes a tire pressure monitoring system, the tire pressure monitoring system including a receiver for receiving signals indicative of vehicle tire pressure. The vehicular rearview mirror system further includes a microcontroller; the microcontroller controls at least in part the drive circuit, the garage door opener and the tire pressure monitoring system.--

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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EXHIBIT A

PATENT

DON01 P-1120

Express Mail #EL994417509US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : John P. Drummond and Niall R. Lynam
For : DIGITAL ELECTROCHROMIC CIRCUIT WITH
A VEHICLE NETWORK
Atty Docket No. : DON01 P-1120

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend their application as follows:

Amendment to the Title is reflected on page 2 of this paper.

Amendment to the Abstract is reflected on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the specification are reflected on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in a listing of claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 19 of this paper.

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In the Title:

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

DIGITAL ELECTROCHROMIC CIRCUIT WITH A VEHICLE NETWORK VEHICULAR
REARVIEW MIRROR SYSTEM WITH MICROCONTROLLER

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In the Abstract:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~A vehicular rearview mirror system includes an interior rearview mirror system having an electrochromic reflective element, a digital electrochromic drive circuit supplying a drive signal to the reflective element and a garage door opener. The garage door opener includes a transmitter and logic circuit. The logic circuit supplies signals to the transmitter for transmitting garage door opening signals. A microcontroller is provided which defines, at least in part, the digital drive circuit and logic circuit. In this manner, the digital electrochromic mirror system and the garage door opener have at least some components in common. The microcontroller communicates over a vehicle network with at least one module performing at least one other vehicle function. The vehicle network may have at least wired interconnections and may further have wireless interconnections.~~ A vehicular rearview mirror system comprises an interior rearview mirror system that includes an interior reflective element that assumes an interior mirror electrochromic reflective element partial reflectance level in response to an interior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal. The vehicular rearview mirror system preferably includes a digital drive circuit, the drive circuit supplying a drive signal to the interior mirror electrochromic reflective element. The vehicular rearview mirror system includes a garage door opener; the garage door opener including a transmitter for transmitting garage door opening signals. The vehicular rearview mirror system further includes a tire pressure monitoring system, the tire pressure monitoring system including a receiver for receiving signals indicative of vehicle tire pressure. The vehicular rearview mirror system further includes a microcontroller; the microcontroller controls at least in part the drive circuit, the garage door opener and the tire pressure monitoring system.

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In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3, as follows:

This application is a continuation of pending prior United States patent application Serial No. 10/134,716, filed on April 29, 2002, now United States Patent No. 6,639,519, which is a continuation of United States patent application Serial No. 09/820,013, filed on March 28, 2001, now United States Patent No. 6,396,408, which claims priority from United States provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/196,577, filed on Mar. 31, 2000, the ~~disclosure~~disclosures of which ~~is~~are hereby incorporated herein by reference in its ~~entirety~~their entireties.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 23, as follows:

Also, a mirror-mounted microphone/digital sound-processing system 68, as disclosed in commonly assigned patent application Ser. No. 09/466,010, filed by DeLine et al., on Dec. 17, 1999, for an INTERIOR REARVIEW MIRROR SOUND-PROCESSING SYSTEM, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference, may be also powered by battery 62. Preferably, sound-processing system 68 is incorporated in circuit assembly 61 and, most preferably, ~~show~~shares microcontroller 20 with garage door opener 66 and digital electrochromic mirror 18. Communication button press information 58 can be transmitted over network 34 for various uses by other electronic control units, such as activation of a rescue system 60, such as General Motors' ONSTAR™ system, a Ford Motor Company's RESCU™ system, or the like. Use of digital signal-processing and a single mirror-mounted microphone (such as is described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/396,179, filed Sep. 14, 1999, entitled INDICATOR FOR VEHICLE ACCESSORY, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein) is particularly advantageous for economical achievement of clear and error-free

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transmission from the vehicle, while operating along a highway, to a remote receiver,
particularly in speech-recognition mode. This use of network 34 facilitates location of button 58
in interior mirror assembly 16.

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The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-39.

Please add new claims 40-123 as follows:

40. (New) A vehicular rearview mirror system suitable for use in a vehicle, comprising:

an interior rearview mirror system comprising an interior variable reflective element, said interior variable reflective element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to an interior drive signal;

a microcontroller;

a drive circuit, said drive circuit supplying an interior drive signal to said interior variable reflective element;

a garage door opener, said garage door opener including a transmitter for transmitting a garage door opening signal;

a tire pressure monitoring system, said tire pressure monitoring system including a receiver for receiving a signal indicative of vehicle tire pressure;

wherein said microcontroller controls at least in part said drive circuit, said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system.

41. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 40 wherein said interior variable reflective element comprises an electrochromic reflective element.

42. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 40 further including a digital sound-processing system, wherein said microcontroller controls at least in part said digital sound-processing system.

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43. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 40 including a battery supplying power to said drive circuit, said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system that is separate from the vehicle ignition.

44. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 43 wherein said battery is rechargeable.

45. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 44 including a solar system for charging said battery.

46. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 40 further comprising a driver-side exterior mirror assembly and a passenger-side exterior mirror assembly, said driver-side exterior mirror assembly comprising a driver-side variable reflective element, said driver-side variable reflectance element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to a driver-side drive signal, said passenger-side exterior mirror assembly comprising a passenger-side variable reflective element, said passenger-side variable reflectance element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to a passenger-side drive signal.

47. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 46 wherein said drive circuit establishes a driver-side drive signal and a passenger-side drive signal.

48. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 40 wherein said microcontroller receives an input from a phototransistor.

49. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 40 wherein said microcontroller receives an input from a photodiode.

50. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 40 wherein said microcontroller comprises a microprocessor.

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51. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 40 wherein said interior mirror system including a forward-facing camera, said forward-facing camera at least partially controlled by said microcontroller.

52. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 51 wherein said forward-facing camera comprises at least one of a headlamp-controlling camera and a rain-sensing camera.

53. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 40 wherein said drive circuit has components in common with said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system.

54. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 40 wherein said microcontroller is on a circuit board.

55. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 54 wherein said drive circuit, said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system are at least partially on said circuit board.

56. (New) A vehicular rearview mirror system suitable for use in a vehicle, comprising:

- at least one tire pressure sensor associated with a tire on a wheel of the vehicle, said at least one tire pressure sensor emitting a tire pressure-monitoring signal indicative of tire pressure;

- an interior rearview mirror system comprising an interior variable reflective element, said interior variable reflective element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to an interior drive signal;

- a microcontroller;

- a drive circuit, said drive circuit supplying an interior drive signal to said interior variable reflective element;

- a garage door opener, said garage door opener including a transmitter for transmitting a garage door opening signal;

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a tire pressure monitoring system, said tire pressure monitoring system including a receiver for receiving a signal emitted by said at least one tire pressure sensor;

wherein said microcontroller controls at least in part said drive circuit, said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system.

57. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 56 wherein said at least one tire pressure sensor comprises a plurality of tire pressure sensors associated with different tires on different wheels of the vehicle, said tire pressure sensors emitting tire pressure-monitoring signals indicative of tire pressure of the respective ones of said tires.

58. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 56 wherein said interior variable reflective element comprises an electrochromic reflective element.

59. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 56 further including a digital sound-processing system, wherein said microcontroller controls at least in part said digital sound-processing system.

60. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 56 including a battery supplying power to said drive circuit, said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system that is separate from the vehicle ignition.

61. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 60 wherein said battery is rechargeable.

62. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 61 including a solar system for charging said battery.

63. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 56 further comprising a driver-side exterior mirror assembly and a passenger-side exterior mirror assembly, said driver-side exterior mirror assembly comprising a driver-side variable reflective element, said driver-side variable reflectance element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to a driver-side drive signal,

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said passenger-side exterior mirror assembly comprising a passenger-side variable reflective element, said passenger-side variable reflectance element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to a passenger-side drive signal.

64. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 63 wherein said drive circuit establishes a driver-side drive signal and a passenger-side drive signal.

65. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 56 wherein said microcontroller receives an input from a phototransistor.

66. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 56 wherein said microcontroller receives an input from a photodiode.

67. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 56 wherein said microcontroller comprises a microprocessor.

68. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 56 wherein said interior mirror system including a forward-facing camera, said forward-facing camera at least partially controlled by said microcontroller.

69. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 68 wherein said forward-facing camera comprises at least one of a headlamp-controlling camera and a rain-sensing camera.

70. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 56 wherein said drive circuit has components in common with said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system.

71. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 56 wherein said microcontroller is on a circuit board.

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72. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 71 wherein said drive circuit, said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system are at least partially on said circuit board.

73. (New) A vehicular rearview mirror system suitable for use in a vehicle, comprising:

- at least one tire pressure sensor associated with a tire on a wheel of the vehicle, said at least one tire pressure sensor emitting a tire pressure-monitoring signal indicative of tire pressure;

- an interior rearview mirror system comprising an interior variable reflective element, said interior variable reflective element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to an interior drive signal;

- a microcontroller;

- a drive circuit, said drive circuit supplying an interior drive signal to said interior variable reflective element;

- a garage door opener, said garage door opener including a transmitter for transmitting a garage door opening signal;

- a tire pressure monitoring system, said tire pressure monitoring system including a receiver for receiving a signals emitted by said at least one tire pressure sensor;

- wherein said microcontroller controls at least in part said drive circuit, said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system;

- wherein said microcontroller controls over a vehicle network at least one other vehicle function.

74. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said at least one tire pressure sensor comprises a plurality of tire pressure sensors associated with different tires on different wheels of the vehicle, said tire pressure sensors emitting tire pressure-monitoring signals indicative of tire pressure of the respective one of said tires.

75. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said interior variable reflective element comprises an electrochromic reflective element.

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76. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 73 further including a digital sound-processing system, wherein said microcontroller controls at least in part said digital sound-processing system.

77. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 including a battery supplying power to said drive circuit, said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system that is separate from the vehicle ignition.

78. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 77 wherein said battery is rechargeable.

79. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 78 including a solar system for charging said battery.

80. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said at least one other vehicle function comprising control of a driver-side exterior mirror assembly, said driver-side exterior mirror assembly comprising a driver-side variable reflective element, said driver-side variable reflectance element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to a driver-side drive signal.

81. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 80 wherein said partial reflectance level of said interior reflective element assumed in response to said interior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal differs from said partial reflectance level of said driver-side reflective element assumed in response to said driver-side exterior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal.

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82. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 80 wherein said at least one other vehicle function further comprising control of a passenger-side exterior mirror assembly, said passenger-side exterior mirror assembly comprising a passenger-side variable reflective element, said passenger-side variable reflectance element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to a passenger-side drive signal.

83. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 82 wherein said partial reflectance level of said interior reflective element assumed in response to said interior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal differs from said partial reflectance level of said driver-side reflective element assumed in response to said driver-side exterior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal.

84. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 82 wherein said partial reflectance level of said interior reflective element assumed in response to said interior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal differs from said partial reflectance level of said passenger-side reflective element assumed in response to said passenger-side exterior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal.

85. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said at least one other vehicle function comprising control of a passenger-side exterior mirror assembly, said passenger-side exterior mirror assembly comprising a passenger-side variable reflective element, said passenger-side variable reflectance element assuming a partial reflectance level in response to a passenger-side drive signal.

86. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 85 wherein said partial reflectance level of said interior reflective element assumed in response to said interior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal differs from said partial reflectance level of said passenger-side reflective element assumed in response to said passenger-side exterior mirror electrochromic reflective element drive signal.

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87. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said microcontroller receives an input from a phototransistor.

88. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said microcontroller receives an input from a photodiode.

89. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said microcontroller comprises a microprocessor.

90. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said interior mirror system including a forward-facing camera, said forward-facing camera at least partially controlled by said microcontroller.

91. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 90 wherein said forward-facing camera comprises at least one of a headlamp-controlling camera and a rain-sensing camera.

92. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said drive circuit has components in common with said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system.

93. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said microcontroller is on a circuit board.

94. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 93 wherein said drive circuit, said garage door opener and said tire pressure monitoring system are at least partially on said circuit board.

95. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said vehicle network comprises at least one wired network connection.

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96. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 95 wherein said vehicle network comprises a protocol selected from the group consisting of a LIN, a CAN and a LAN.

97. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 96 wherein said vehicle network comprises at least one of a wire, a cable and a fiber-optic connection.

98. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said vehicle network comprises at least partially a wireless network.

99. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 98 wherein said wireless network comprises a short-range wireless connection.

100. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 99 wherein said wireless network comprises a BLUETOOTH protocol.

101. (New) The vehicular rearview mirror system of claim 98 wherein said wireless network comprises at least one of an infrared and a radio-frequency connection.

102. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said at least one other vehicle function includes a function associated with at least one of an instrument panel and a headlight control circuit and wherein ambient light level information is provided to said at least one of an instrument panel and a headlight control circuit over said network.

103. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 102 wherein said ambient light level information is developed by said drive circuit.

104. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said at least one other vehicle function comprises a reverse gear detection function and wherein said digital electrochromic drive circuit responds to reverse gear information sent over said network to establish a high reflectance level of said interior mirror electrochromic reflective element.

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105. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 including a positioning system for positioning a reflective element and wherein said at least one other vehicle function includes a memory function and wherein said network supplies memory values to operate said positioning system.

106. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said vehicle network comprises at least a wired connection comprising no more than three wires.

107. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said at least one other vehicle function comprises a remote keyless entry function.

108. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said at least one other vehicle function comprises a navigational system function.

109. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 108 wherein said navigational system function comprises a global-positioning system function.

110. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said at least one other vehicle function comprises a telematics function.

111. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 110 wherein said interior mirror system includes at least one microphone.

112. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 111 wherein said telematics function comprises a speech-recognition mode.

113. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 112 wherein said interior mirror system includes a user control, actuation of which is transmitted over said network.

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114. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 113 wherein said user control comprises a user-operable button.

115. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said at least one other vehicle function comprises a display function.

116. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 115 wherein said display function comprises a vehicle heading information display function.

117. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 116 wherein information from a magnetic sensor is supplied over said network.

118. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 116 wherein said display function comprises a seatbelt warning status display function.

119. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said interior mirror system receives at least one chosen from gear status information, engine information, alarm information and door opener information.

120. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 73 wherein said interior mirror system receives information over said network.

121. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 120 wherein said information comprises at least one chosen from gear status information, magnetic sensor information, engine information, alarm information and door opener information.

122. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 120 wherein said information comprises door opener information.

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123. (New) The vehicle rearview mirror system of claim 122 wherein said rearview mirror system activates general lighting of the vehicle when a door of the vehicle is opened.

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REMARKS

The present amendment submits claims for examination. Entry of the amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee is requested.

New claims 40-123 are fully supported by the application as filed and its priority filings. Accordingly, no new matter is added.

Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN P. DRUMMOND and NIALL R. LYNAM

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

Dated: October 27, 2003.

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